



Senate

General Assembly

February Session, 2004

File No. 397

Senate Bill No. 341

Senate, April 1, 2004

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. MURPHY of the 16th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING A DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR
PLACING CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS ON-SITE AT HOUSING
AUTHORITIES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2004*) The Commissioner of Mental
- 2 Health and Addiction Services shall implement a demonstration
- 3 project at one or more housing projects organized pursuant to part VI
- 4 of chapter 128 of the general statutes to place a clinical social worker
- 5 experienced in the health needs of seniors and persons with disabilities
- 6 on-site at the project or projects, on either a part-time or full-time basis.
- 7 The social worker shall interact with residents of the housing project or
- 8 projects to identify emerging physical and behavioral health care needs
- 9 and to make appropriate interventions and referrals. The
- 10 demonstration project shall be funded from federal or private grants
- 11 or, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Services, through
- 12 Medicaid-funded targeted case management services. The
- 13 Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall present

14 an interim report to the joint standing committee of the General
15 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to economic and
16 community development, and the select committees of the General
17 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to housing and senior
18 citizens, not later than January 1, 2005. Said commissioner shall present
19 a final report to said committees not later than June 30, 2006.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2004</i>

HSG	<i>Joint Favorable C/R</i>	PD
PD	<i>Joint Favorable C/R</i>	PH
PH	<i>Joint Favorable</i>	

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 05 \$	FY 06 \$
Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below
Department of Social Services	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill requires the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to establish a demonstration project to place a clinical social worker at one or more state-assisted senior housing projects. This requirement will result in significant increased personal services costs to DMHAS. The cost will be dependent upon how many project sites are established. The bill specifies that the project will be funded with federal or private grants, or through Medicaid targeted case management services, under the Department of Social Services. However, it is not clear how the project would be funded should these funding mechanisms not materialize.

Neither the original FY05 budget, nor the revised FY05 budget (sHB 5033, as passed by the Appropriations Committee) contain funding for this initiative.

The bill further requires DMHAS to present a report on the program to the General Assembly by January 1, 2005. DMHAS will incur minimal administrative costs to produce this report.

OLR Bill Analysis

SB 341

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING A DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR PLACING CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS ON-SITE AT HOUSING AUTHORITIES**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) commissioner to implement a demonstration project to place a clinical social worker, experienced in the health needs of seniors and people with disabilities, on-site (either full- or part-time) at one or more state-assisted senior housing projects. The social worker must interact with residents to identify emerging physical and behavioral health care needs and make appropriate interventions and referrals.

The demonstration project is funded from (1) federal or private grants or (2) through Medicaid-funded targeted case management services, which are provided in consultation with the commissioner of the Department of Social Services (DSS).

The bill requires DMHAS' commissioner to present to the Commerce, Aging, and Housing committees (1) an interim report on the project by January 1, 2005 and (2) a final report by June 30, 2006.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2004

BACKGROUND***State-Assisted Elderly Housing Developments and Resident Service Coordinators (RSCs)***

By law, people can qualify to live in state-assisted elderly housing if they (1) have low-incomes and are at least age 62 or (2) are certified as totally disabled and are younger than age 62.

By law, the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) must award grants to housing authorities and other entities

operating state-assisted elderly housing projects to hire RSCs to:

1. help tenant's maintain independent living status,
2. assess residents' needs to establish and maintain support services,
3. maintain regular contact with residents,
4. monitor the delivery of support services,
5. advocate for changes in services residents seek or require, and
6. provide mediation and conflict resolution services.

The law does not specify the qualifications an RSC must have. DECD currently has funding for 16 RSCs.

Related Bills

HB 5377, reported favorably by the Housing and Planning and Development committees on March 4 and March 12, respectively, requires the DSS commissioner to implement and administer new rental assistance program certificates and support services for low-income, nonelderly people with disabilities living in, or on a waiting list for, state-assisted elderly housing.

It requires the DSS commissioner to try to fund the new certificates and services, to the extent possible, with federal reimbursement through targeted case management or any other Medicaid-eligible services.

sHB 5380, reported favorably by the Housing and Planning and Development committees on March 4 and March 15, respectively, expands and redefines the responsibilities of RSCs (who assist residents at state-assisted senior housing projects).

The bill also requires DECD to arrange monthly in-service training and information sharing meetings for RSCs. Training topics must include information on the health care needs of seniors and people with disabilities, mediation, conflict resolution, and regional service resources.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Housing

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 10 Nay 3

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 11 Nay 5

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 14 Nay 8